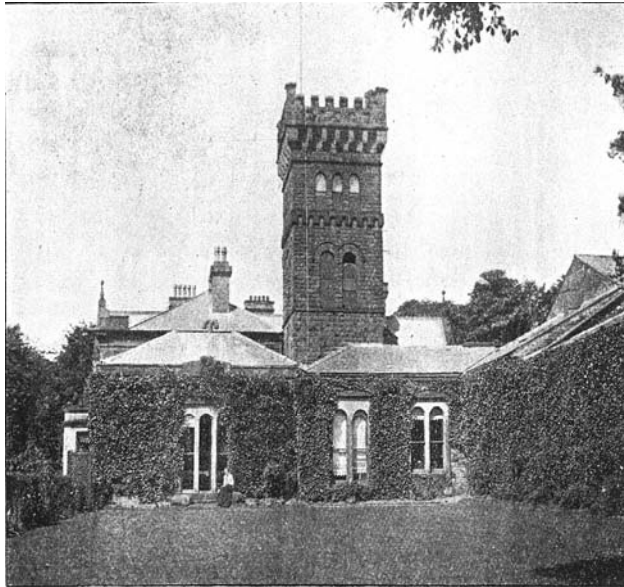


Crompton Hall, Buckstones Road, Shaw, Greater Manchester



Archaeological Evaluation



Oxford Archaeology North

September 2011

Vian Homes Ltd

Issue No: 2011-12/1216

OA North Job No: L10370

NGR: SD 9486 0986

Document Title: CROMPTON HALL, BUCKSTONES ROAD, SHAW, GREATER MANCHESTER

Document Type: Archaeological Evaluation

Client Name: Vian Homes Ltd

Issue Number: 2011-12/1216
OA Job Number: L10370
National Grid Reference: SJ 9486 0986

Prepared by: Graham Mottershead
Position: Project Supervisor
Date: August 2011

Checked by: Alison Plummer
Position: Senior Project Manager
Date: September 2011

Signed... 

Approved by: Alan Lupton
Position: Operations Manager
Date: September 2011

Signed... 

Oxford Archaeology North

Mill 3
Moor Lane Mills
Moor Lane
Lancaster
LA1 1GF
t: (0044) 01524 541000
f: (0044) 01524 848606

w: www.oxfordarch.co.uk
e: info@oxfordarch.co.uk

© Oxford Archaeology Ltd (2011)

Janus House
Osney Mead
Oxford
OX2 0EA

t: (0044) 01865 263800
f: (0044) 01865 793496

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CONTENTS

SUMMARY	2
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	3
1. INTRODUCTION	4
1.1 Circumstances of Project	4
1.2 Location, topography and geology	4
2. METHODOLOGY	5
2.1 Written Scheme of Investigation	5
2.2 Evaluation Trenching	5
2.3 Finds.....	5
2.4 Archive.....	6
3. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND	7
3.1 Introduction	7
3.2 Background	7
3.3 Crompton Hall.....	9
4. FIELDWORK RESULTS	19
4.1 Introduction	19
4.2 Results.....	19
5. DISCUSSION	23
5.1 Crompton Hall.....	23
5.2 The Evaluation Trenching.....	24
6. BIBLIOGRAPHY	26
6.1 Cartographic Sources.....	26
6.2 Secondary Sources.....	26
7. ILLUSTRATIONS	28
7.1 Figures.....	28
7.2 Plates	28
APPENDIX 1: PROJECT BRIEF	29
APPENDIX 2: WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION.....	35

SUMMARY

Vian Homes Ltd obtained planning permission (PA/056903/09) to develop a site off Buckstones Road in Shaw, Oldham (centred on NGR SD 9486 0986). The development proposals allowed for the erection of seven new dwellings, necessitating some earth-moving works.

In order to secure archaeological interests, Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council (OMBC) placed a condition on the planning permission, which required a programme of archaeological investigation to be carried out in advance of development. Following consultation with the Assistant County Archaeologist for Greater Manchester, it was recommended that an appropriate programme of investigation would in the first instance comprise background documentary research coupled with targeted evaluation trenching.

Following the production of a written scheme of investigation, Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) duly undertook the research in July 2011. Subsequently, the evaluation trenching took place immediately after the demolition of the modern bungalow on site in August 2011.

The first documentary reference for a Crompton Hall dates to 1442, with subsequent references from 1500, 1672 and 1669. However, none of these references provide any detail other than family names, deaths and so on, and a direct relationship with the known eighteenth Crompton Hall cannot be confirmed. A reference is made to a chapel being on site, certainly by 1795. The hall first appears on maps in 1786, but again with no detail until 1845, and then subsequently in 1851 and as the new Crompton Hall by 1893.

The Hall remained within the Crompton family until the seventeenth century from which time it changed hands on a number of occasions. In 1853 it was recorded as being in a state of decay, and it was slightly prior to this in 1845 that Alice Milne nee Crompton purchased the hall with her two brothers. The exact date of construction for the new Hall is unknown, however there is a reference from 1868 which describes the Hall as having been rebuilt.

Alice and her brothers owned the nearby Park Mill, which was overlooked by the new Crompton Hall. Following the death of Alice in 1878 the hall remained in the hands of the Crompton family until 1905. It was demolished in the 1950s and a bungalow was built on site. An area of the surrounding grounds passed into public hands, and is still used for recreation.

The evaluation trenching failed to find any physical remains of the hall other than demolition rubble and a possible cellar of unknown date. There are no recommendations for further work within the boundary of the current development.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) would like to thank Vian Homes Ltd for commissioning the project. Thanks are also due to the Assistant County Archaeologist for Greater Manchester for his guidance and advice, and the staff of the Greater Manchester Historic Environment Record. Kathryn Blythe and Alison Plummer carried out the research. Graham Mottershead and Phil Cooke undertook the evaluation, and Mark Tidmarsh produced the drawings. Alison Plummer edited the report and also managed the project.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 CIRCUMSTANCES OF PROJECT

- 1.1.1 Vian Homes Ltd obtained planning permission (PA/056903/09) to develop a site off Buckstones Road in Shaw, Oldham (centred on NGR SD 9486 0986). The development proposals allowed for the erection of seven new dwellings, the construction of which necessitated some earth-moving works which had the potential to impact on buried archaeological remains.
- 1.1.2 In order to secure archaeological interests, Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council (OMBC) placed a condition on the planning permission, which required a programme of archaeological investigation to be carried out in advance of development. Following consultation with the Assistant County Archaeologist for Greater Manchester, who provides archaeological planning advice to OMBC, it was recommended that an appropriate programme of investigation would in the first instance comprise background documentary research coupled with targeted evaluation trenching (*Appendix 1*).
- 1.1.3 Following the production of a written scheme of investigation (*Appendix 2*), OA North duly undertook the research in July 2011. Subsequently, the evaluation trenching took place immediately after the demolition of the modern bungalow on site in August 2011.

1.2 LOCATION, TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

- 1.2.1 Shaw and Crompton, commonly referred to as Shaw, and within the Metropolitan Borough of Oldham, lies 5km north-east of Oldham, on the River Beal, and at the foothills of the South Pennines. The River Beal runs northward through a central valley, which rises to the east up to Crompton Moor, and to the west the highest points are High Crompton and Whitfield.
- 1.2.2 The natural geology comprises Pennine Lower Coal Measures, mudstone, siltstone and sandstone. The overlying geology is clay with veins of sand (BGS.ac.uk/geology viewer). Crompton lies on the eastern extremity of the Lancashire Coalfield, in an area dominated by the Lower Coal Measures (Fanning 2001, 10).

2. METHODOLOGY

2.1 WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION

- 2.1.1 The Greater Manchester Assistant County Archaeologist issued a brief (*Appendix 1*) for the archaeological investigation of the development site. OA North submitted a written scheme of investigation (*Appendix 2*) in response to the brief. The WSI was adhered to in full, and the work was consistent with the relevant IfA and English Heritage guidelines (Institute for Archaeologists 2008a, 2008b, 2010; English Heritage 2006).

2.2 EVALUATION TRENCHING

- 2.2.1 **Historical background:** a search was made of the Greater Manchester Historic Environment Record (HER) within a 600m radius of the site of Crompton Hall to provide some archaeological background of the area. Cartographic and documentary sources at the Oldham Local Studies Library were also consulted. The results are presented in *Section 3*.
- 2.2.2 **Fieldwork:** the topsoil was removed by machine (fitted with a toothless ditching bucket) under archaeological supervision to the surface of the first significant archaeological deposit. This deposit was cleaned by hand, using either hoes, shovel scraping, and/or trowels depending on the subsoil conditions, and inspected for archaeological features. All features of archaeological interest were investigated and recorded
- 2.2.3 All trenches were excavated in a stratigraphical manner. Trenches were located by use of a differential Global Positioning System (dGPS), and altitude information has been established with respect to Ordnance Survey Datum.
- 2.2.4 All information identified in the course of the site works was recorded stratigraphically, using a system adapted from that used by the former Centre for Archaeology of English Heritage, with an accompanying pictorial record (plans, sections, and monochrome contacts/digital photographs). Primary records were available for inspection at all times.
- 2.2.5 Results of all field investigations were recorded on *pro forma* context sheets. The site archive includes both a photographic record and accurate large-scale plans and sections at an appropriate scale (1:50, 1:20 and 1:10). All artefacts were recorded using the same system, and will be handled and stored according to standard practice (following current Institute for Archaeologists guidelines).

2.3 FINDS

- 2.3.1 The recovery of finds and sampling programmes were carried out in accordance with best practice (following current Institute for Archaeologists guidelines), and subject to expert advice in order to minimise deterioration.

2.4 ARCHIVE

- 2.4.1 A full professional archive has been compiled in accordance with the project design (*Appendix 2*), and in accordance with current IfA and English Heritage guidelines (English Heritage 2006). The paper and digital archive will be deposited in Oldham Museum on completion of the project.

3. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

3.1 INTRODUCTION

3.1.1 The following section presents a summary of the historical and archaeological background of the general area. This is presented by historical period, and has been compiled in order to provide a wider archaeological context to the site.

3.2 BACKGROUND

3.2.1 The results of the HER search are presented in *Table 1*, below. It should also be noted that Crompton Fold Conservation area is situated to the north of the site of the hall.

HER No	NGR	Description
300.1.0	SD 950 100	Crow Knoll Neolithic flint implements - flints including knives, scrapers, arrowheads and spear tips found at c 415m above sea level and covered with a layer of peat up to 3m thick.
666.1.0	SD 9488 0988	Crompton Hall (site of) - first mentioned in 1442. Crompton Hall (it is not known if this was the same hall, or the same location of the hall mentioned in 1442) was demolished in c 1845, with a new hall built on a different axis. The new hall fell into decline and was demolished in c 1952, and a bungalow built on the site.
666.2.0	SD 9488 0739	Crompton settlement - shown on Yates' map of 1786, adjacent to the Old Brook (off the present Buckstones Road). The settlement appears as a scatter of buildings heading towards Shore Edge. On the 1851 Ordnance Survey (OS) map the settlement includes cotton mills and coal pits.
1125.1.0	SD 9445 0935	Dee Mill Engines (site of) - spinning mill, built in 1907 and demolished in 1984.
1182.1.0	SD 9489 1002	1,2,3,8 Pingot - Four Grade II listed late eighteenth century houses within Crompton Fold Conservation Area.
2649.1.0	SD 9465 0932	Nook and Laneside settlements - Nook is shown on Yates' map of 1786 as a scatter of buildings on Grains Road, heading towards Laneside. The 1851 OS map shows several buildings and quarries in this area. The buildings which were at Laneside possibly no longer exist; they were next to the presently named George Street.
6122.1.0	SD 9442 0938	Elm Mill (Newby Mill) - spinning mill, built in 1890.

Table 1: HER results within a 600m radius of the site of Crompton Hall

3.2.2 **Prehistoric Period:** Neolithic flint implements have been found at Crow Knoll, to the immediate north-east of Crompton Hall (HER 300.1.0), and Besom Hill, approximately 1.2km to the south-east (Bateson 1949). There are

Iron Age artefacts from Crompton Moor and stone heads, thought perhaps to be Iron Age, have been recorded from the Rochdale area (<http://www.lan-opc.org.uk/Oldham/Shaw-and-Crompton/index.html>; Hodgson and Brennand 2006, 26). One of the stone heads was reportedly found c 2km to the north of Crompton Hall, at Newhey (HER 9058.1.0; SD 950 120).

- 3.2.3 **Roman Period:** the first military occupation of Manchester was established during the governorship of Agricola (AD 77-84). A Roman road is thought to cross Buckstones Road, on route from Manchester to the fort at Castleshaw, Saddleworth (Brunton 1909; <http://www.lan-opc.org.uk/Oldham/Shaw-and-Crompton/index.html>).
- 3.2.4 **Early Medieval Period:** Crompton is thought to be one of several villages founded in the seventh century, when the King of Northumbria sent an army to conquer Mercia. The name Crompton is derived from the Anglo-Saxon words *crom* or *crum* meaning bowed or crooked, and *ton* meaning a homestead or village (Stott 1996). Shaw seems to be a name given to a landowner in 1370 (Farrer & Brownbill 1911, 108).
- 3.2.5 **Medieval Period:** in 1076 Crompton was given to Roger de Pictaventis by his uncle, William I. From c 1212 onwards the settlement of Crompton was one of the five thegnage estates known as Kaskenmoor (*ibid*) when it was held by Swain Fitz Alric, and then his son, Adam Fitz Swain. It then descended by marriage, through Adam Fitz Swain's daughters, to Roger de Montbegon and William de Nevill. During the mid-thirteenth century the estate was acquired by Gilbert de Notton, who granted part of his land to the canons at Cockersand Abbey (*op cit* 108-12).
- 3.2.6 In 1241 the estate descended to Gilbert de Notton's grandson, Gilbert de Barton, meanwhile the township, known as the fee of Crompton, was part of the Royal Manor of Salford, and belonged to Simon de la Legh. Simon's son, Hugh, changed the family name to de la Legh de Crompton (<http://web.onetel.com/~rgcrompton/origins/1200info1.html>). In 1259, Geoffrey, son of Luke de Manchester leased the Crompton land held by Cockersand Abbey (formerly belonging to Gilbert de Barton) to Sir Geoffrey de Chetham (Farrer and Brownbill 1911, 108-12).
- 3.2.7 **Post-medieval - Modern Periods:** in 1587, and on the death of a William Crompton, the estate was recorded as 163 acres and also included messuages in Crompton held by James Browne of Westhoughton, who had earlier purchased the land held by Cockersand Abbey. The estate remained in the Crompton family until 1608, when Thomas Crompton died, and it passed to his three young daughters. The girls, all under the age of seven, then lived with Thomas's brother, Abel, at Whetstonehill Farm (Plate 1). Thomas's other brother, Samuel, managed the estate, which was to be held in trust until the girls each reached the age of 21. In 1625 the estate was split into three parts, but the family name was lost, as all three of Thomas's daughters married (*ibid*). Baines (1868, 467) however, states that the Cromptons held the estate until 1666 when it was sold in consequence of the losses of the family in the civil war.



Plate 1: Whetstonehill Farm (reproduced from Shaw 1904)

3.2.8 In the late seventeenth century a cottage textile industry flourished in this area. With increasing industrialisation in the following centuries, stone for mills and houses was quarried locally, and with the introduction of steam-driven machinery in the mills, fuel was required in larger quantities. The 1845 Tithe Map shows Brook Mill (owned by the Milne family) just to the west of the hall. Extensive quarry operations for the extraction of the Helpet Edge Rock took place in the latter part of the nineteenth and the early twentieth centuries at Pingot and Brushes Clough Quarries (OMBC). It was during the nineteenth century that deep coal mine shafts were sunk in the area, seeking deeper seams than those previously worked from adits and day holes (Fanning 2001, 10). Nineteenth century collieries in the immediate area of Crompton Hall included Brook and Park collieries (LRO DRM 11/35). Others on the moor included Brushes and Clough Collieries (Fanning 2001, 10). It is worthy of note that Higginshaw Lane Colliery near Royton (2km south-west of the study area) was owned by a company called Milne, Travis and Milne (Dickinson 1854), and that the company of James Stott Milne and Co worked Lower Crompton, Hanging Chadder and Hathershaw Moor collieries (Fanning 2001, 75). Alice Milne (*Section 3.3.2 below*) purchased Crompton Hall in the 1840s and a family connection should not be ruled out.

3.2.9 During the latter half of the nineteenth century a band of desperadoes called the 'Shore Edge Thieves' had their HQ on Crompton Moor. They were feared by the surrounding community (OMBC). Farming was practised on the moor until the 1930's.

3.3 CROMPTON HALL

3.3.1 Generally, it is not known how the earliest country houses in Greater Manchester developed, but there almost certainly existed halls in the mid-eleventh century which were subsequently occupied by later halls (GMAU 1985, 75). A number of the earlier Halls in the Oldham District may fall into this category. Crompton Hall is the most northerly located of the historic country houses in the District, with the majority of the other known sites (30 in total) being largely distributed to the south-west of the district, with Ashway

Gap House on Saddleworth to the east as the exception. A substantial number of the halls are known to have had medieval origins, including Crompton Hall itself, Chadderton Hall dated to 1212, Horsededge Hall which belonged to the Knights of Jerusalem (Templars), and Medlock Hall which dated to 1332 (GMAU 1985). Most developed over the following centuries, and many underwent extensive rebuilds as did Chadderton and Royton in the late eighteenth century (Plates 2 and 3).



Plate 2: Chadderton Hall (Stockdale 1794 published in Aiken 1795)



Plate 3: Royton Hall (Stockdale 1794 published in Aiken 1795)

- 3.3.2 The first direct reference to a Crompton Hall appears to date to 1442 when John de Crompton renewed the lease on the hall. It is uncertain whether or not this is the same hall as that subject to this investigation, however, no documentary or cartographic evidence was found to suggest a second site. Thomas Crompton (who dropped the 'de' from the family name) then occupied the hall, still at this time on land held by Cockersand Abbey. When a descendant of Thomas, William Crompton, died in 1500 he held both Crompton Hall and Whetstonehill Farm (Ballard 1986; Plate 1). Further references suggest that in 1672 Crompton Hall was owned by a William Richardson, and in 1696 by Hugh Yannes, who died in 1746 (Shaw 1904, 60 and 176; Farrer and Brownbill 1911, 108-12).
- 3.3.3 Yates's map of 1786 (Plate 4) labels a large rectangular-shaped building to the north-east of Shore Edge as Crompton Hall. Although this lies a little to the east of the study area, it is assumed to be the same hall. The first detail for the hall, albeit limited, is provided by Aiken (1795, 241) who says of the hall 'that it has a chapel of the establishment'. It is not until the publication of the tithe map in 1845 (LRO/DRM/1/35; Plate 5) that any further detail is found. The tithe apportionment lists Alice Milne (nee Crompton) as the owner of the Hall, which she is believed to have purchased sometime in the 1840's. At this time, there were 25 acres of pasture, plantation and a meadow. Alice had the hall demolished to make way for a new Crompton Hall.

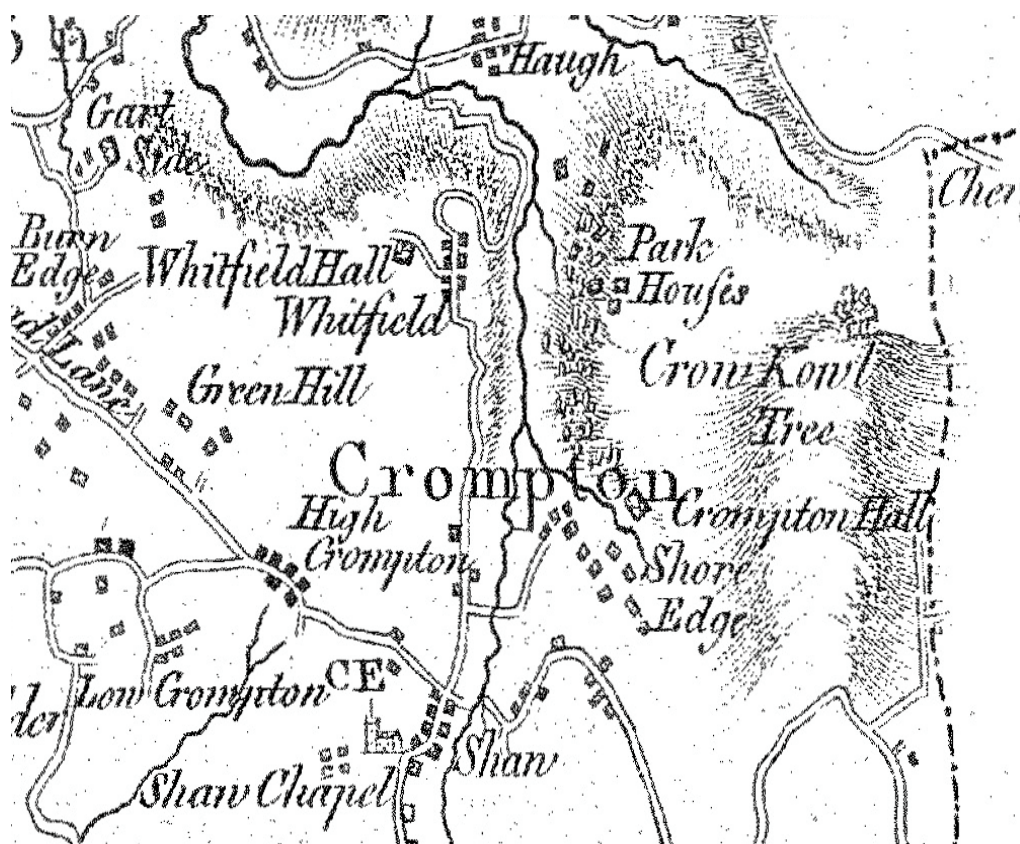


Plate 4: An extract from Yates's Map of Lancashire, 1786



Plate 5: Plan of the township of Crompton in the Parish of Prestwich cum Oldham, 1845

- 3.3.4 The exact date of the demolition is uncertain, however it would appear from a comparison of the tithe map, First Edition OS (1851) and OS 1893 maps, that the new hall was built sometime after the First Edition was surveyed (1844 to 45), and prior to the publication of the 1893 edition. Confusingly, the plan of the hall and associated buildings as depicted on the tithe does not correspond with the 1851 layout. Furthermore, the 1851 map depicts a vastly different footprint for the hall than the later edition (1893). A further clue is provided by Whellan (1853, 819) who states that Crompton Hall like other ancient

mansions in the neighbourhood, has long since fallen into decay, but subsequently Baines (1868, 467) records that the hall had been re-purchased by a collateral descendant of the Crompton family, and a new house built.



Plate 6: First Edition 6 inch to 1 mile Ordnance Survey Map (1851). This map depicts Crompton Hall with a smaller building to the south-east, possibly representing the Chapel as observed by Aiken in 1795. The map shows one entrance drive and two smaller access tracks leading to the Hall. Brook Cotton Mill located to the north was owned by the Milne family prior to its sale in the 1830s.

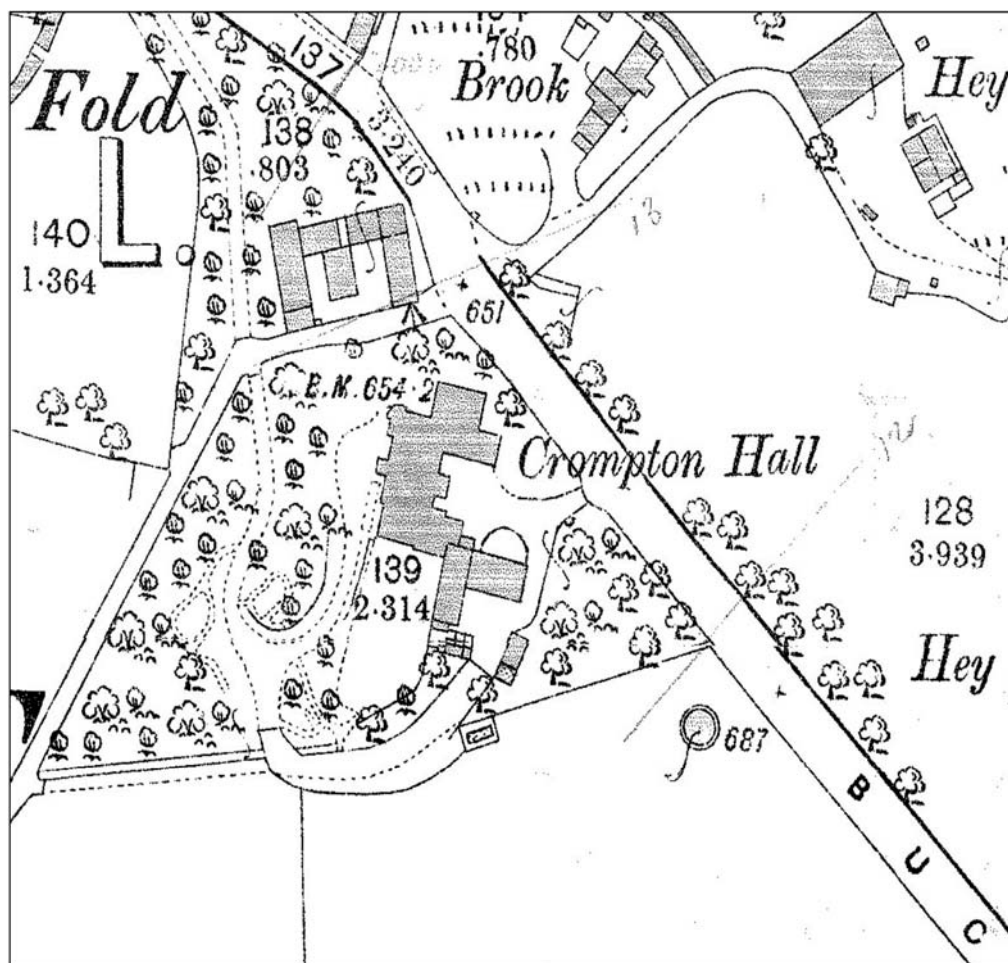


Plate 7: First Edition 25 inch to 1 mile Ordnance Survey Map (1893). This is the Hall as built by Alice Milne sometime between 1853 and 1868. It is on a different alignment to the earlier hall but has retained the same entrance drive. Walks can be seen throughout the wooded grounds, and interestingly appear to extend into the grounds around Crompton Fold to the north-west.

3.3.5 Development of the Hall: the Hall, as shown on the tithe map (1845), comprises three buildings within a plot of land located between the junction of what is now Buckstones Road to the north-east and a smaller unnamed lane to the north-west. The two most northerly of the buildings are aligned approximately east/west, and are at right-angles to each other, with that to the west being the largest building on site. They are rectangular in plan with no projections, and with doorways facing east in the larger building, and south in the other. To the south of the site is a third 'L' shaped building with small porch-like projection, and a south-facing doorway. A wall or boundary forms an extensive yard to the south of the building. The arrangement of the buildings is suggestive of a hall with projecting wing lying to the south and agricultural and service buildings to the rear. The projecting wing is indicative of a sixteenth century plan. In the late eighteenth-century Aiken (1785) observed a chapel on site, however what is not known is whether or not the chapel was integral to the hall or a separate building. If the chapel was free-standing then perhaps the tithe was depicting the hall, service wing and chapel, although a chapel was not listed on the tithe schedule. Interestingly, the tithe

schedule refers to the site of the Hall as houses, which perhaps suggests that the Hall was subdivided amongst tenants at this time.

- 3.3.6 The 1851 OS map, although providing less detail, shows a very different arrangement of buildings. There is a single, large, approximately east/west aligned rectangular-shaped building, with two small projections to the north. However, the south wall in particular, is slightly off true, and appears to be stepped, suggestive of extensions to the building. A small garden is enclosed to the centre and front of the building. To the south-east of this lies a smaller building with a similar 'L' shaped plan as shown on the tithe map. In this case the larger of the buildings is the Hall, and the smaller either services or the chapel. It is not possible to explain the discrepancy between the tithe plan and the 1851 plan.
- 3.3.7 ***Alice Milne and the new Crompton Hall:*** the ownership of the hall for the mid-eighteenth century to the mid-nineteenth century is uncertain, but a newspaper article from 1846 (*below*) documented both the sale of the Hall and the proposed construction of a new church. The article refers to the sale as 'recent' but it was presumably before 1846, given that Alice Milne, who owned the hall until her death in 1878 (Manchester Times, Saturday, July 6, 1878), is listed as owner and occupier of the hall on the tithe apportionment of 1845 (LRO DRM 1/35):

A new church is about to be built in Crompton. Mrs Milne of Park House, has contributed £300, and Abraham Crompton Esq. of Crompton Hall, £100, towards the subscription. The extensive estate of Crompton Hall has been recently purchased by Abel and Abraham Crompton, Esqrs, High Crompton, descendants of a younger branch of the ancient family of Crompton of Crompton (Liverpool Mercury, Friday, June 5, 1846).

- 3.3.8 Alice Crompton was born in c 1792 and married to James Milne of Park House, East Crompton. James' father, also James, constructed two mills in the area, Brook Mill (also known as Crompton Fold Mill) on Buckstones Road, in 1790, and Park Mill on Milnrow Road, before 1800. Brook Mill had been sold by 1832, but Park Mill remained a family business. Alice's husband, James, died in 1823, after which Alice ran Park Mill with her two brothers Abel and Abraham, as A & A Crompton & Co (Gurr and Hunt 1998, 55 and 84).
- 3.3.9 Although the newspaper article of 1846 (Liverpool Mercury, Friday, June 5, 1846) states that Crompton Hall was purchased by Abel and Abraham and makes no mention of Alice, it is likely that the hall was actually purchased by all three, as the 1845 tithe (LRO DRM 1/35) states that Alice was the owner and occupier of the hall. Alice's brother Abraham was living in the hall in 1846 (Manchester Times and Gazette, Friday, September 18, 1846) and 1851 (Manchester Times, Wednesday, October 1, 1851), but it is not clear if she was also living there, or was back at Park House. However, by the time of the 1851 census, Alice was living at the hall with her two sons, Abraham and Henry, and her brothers were not resident there. It is almost certain that the family bought Crompton Hall because of its close proximity to Park Mills, the even closer Brook Mill having been sold by this time, and also because of the Crompton family ties with the old hall.

- 3.3.10 Following the purchase of the hall, it was demolished and rebuilt on a different alignment, and almost certainly sometime after 1851 and prior to 1868. The new hall (Plates 8 and 9) incorporated some fifteenth century oak panelling and an open fireplace from the earlier hall.

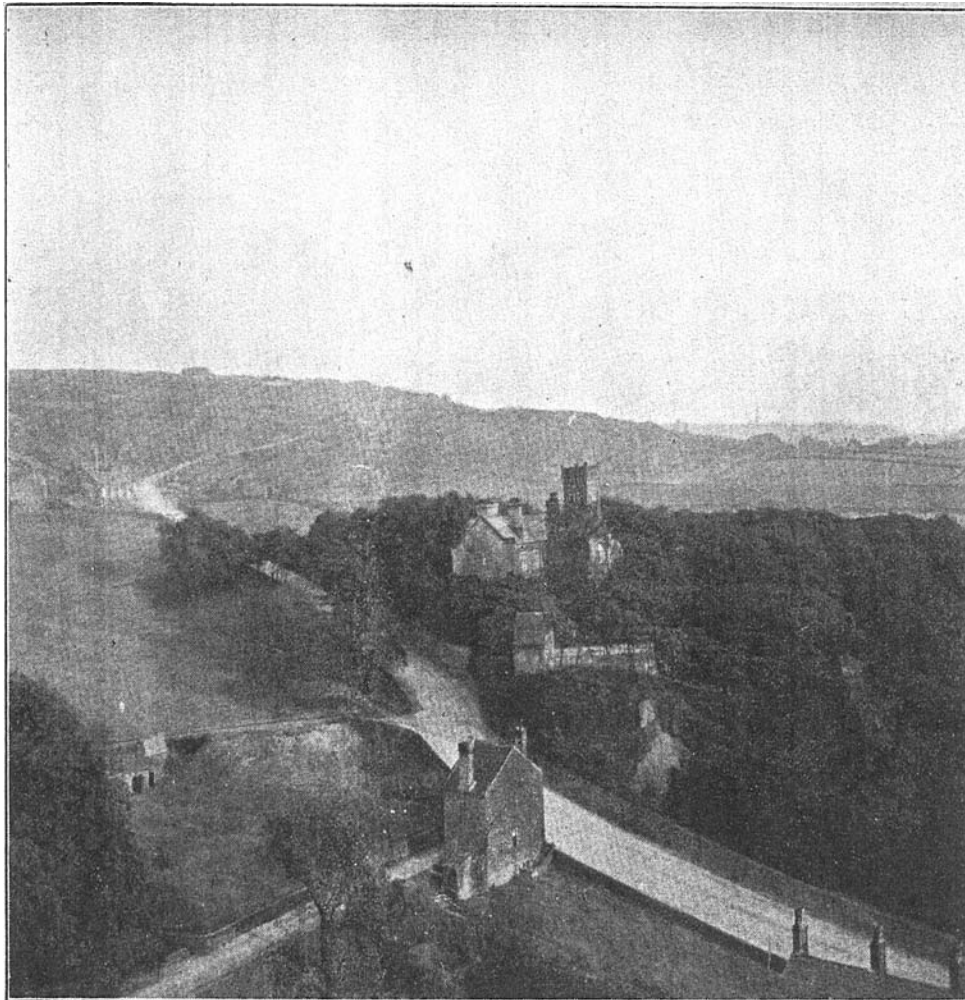


Plate 8: Buckstones Road, Shaw showing the new Crompton Hall (reproduced from Shaw 1904). The wooded grounds are surrounded by a high stone wall. Crompton Fold appears reduced in size.

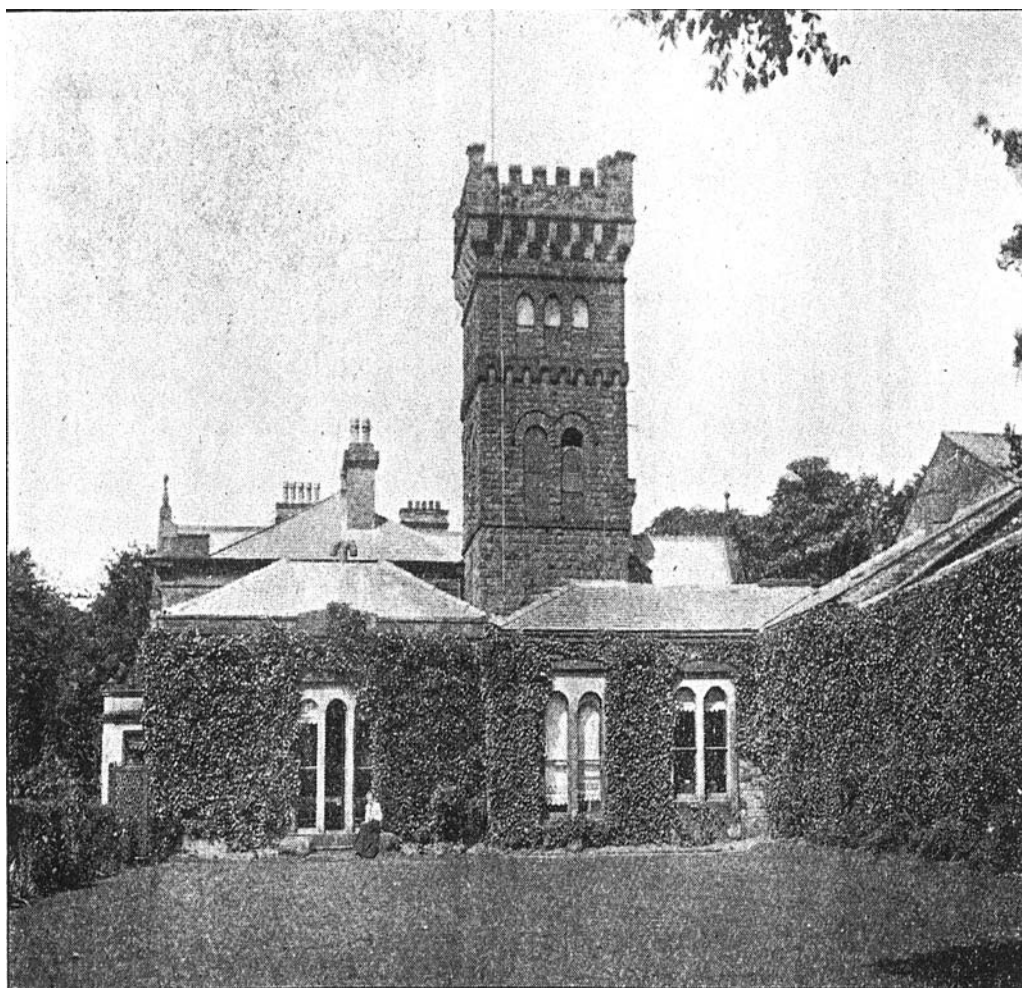


Plate 9: The new Crompton Hall (reproduced from Shaw 1904). The tower commands views of the valley below and Park Mill to the south. The building in the foreground is almost certainly a conservatory, and that to the left of the picture a service building.

3.3.11 Following the death of Alice in 1878, the hall continued in the family name until at least 1905 (*see Table 2 below*). The nineteenth century hall was demolished in c 1952 with a bungalow 'The Laurels' being built on the site, and the grounds given over to public amenity (<http://rgcrompton/origins/1200info1.html>).

Source	Named at Crompton Hall	Additional details
1841 Census	NOT LISTED	N/A
1845 Tithe (LRO DRM 1/35)	Alice Milne (owner and occupier)	N/A
18/09/1846 Manchester Times and Gazette	Abraham Milne	Listed as having obtained a Games Certificate
01/10/1851 Manchester Times	Abraham Milne	Listed as having obtained a Games Certificate
1851 Census	Alice Milne	Cotton Spinner, widow aged 59 living with 2

		sons (Abraham and Henry) and 4 servants
11/10/1852 Manchester Times	Abraham Crompton	Mentioned in article about Oldham election
1853 Trade Directory - Whellan, 823	Mrs Milne	N/A
27/09/1854 Manchester Times	A Crompton Milne	Listed as having obtained a Games Certificate
03/12/1870 Manchester Times	Mr H Travis Milne	On jury list
1877 Trade Directory - Slater, 14	Henry Travis Milne	Justice of the Peace
06/07/1878 Manchester Times	Alice Milne	Died at her residence, Crompton Hall, on 29th June 1878, aged 86, relict of James Milne of Park House, East Crompton
26/04/1879 Manchester Times	H T Milne	On jury list
1880 Trade Directory - Worrall, 237	Henry Travis Milne	N/A
20/08/1881 Manchester Times	H T Milne	Died at Crompton Hall on 15th August, aged 60
1881 Census	Abraham Milne	Cotton Spinner, aged 60, living with 3 servants
1905 Trade Directory - Kelly, 1291	James H Lees-Milne	Justice of the Peace

Table 2: Nineteenth/twentieth century occupiers of Crompton Hall

4. FIELDWORK RESULTS

4.1 INTRODUCTION

- 4.1.1 In total, six trenches were excavated during the course of the investigations (Fig 2). These were positioned in order to target the footprint of the proposed new dwellings within the area of the Hall, as depicted on the 1851 and 1893 OS maps. Each trench measured 10m in length and 1.5m wide, and ranged in depth from 0.35m to 1.8m. A summary of the results is presented by trench below.

4.2 RESULTS

- 4.2.1 **Trench 1:** this north/south aligned trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.8m (Plate 10). Natural compact coarse sand (**104**) containing gravel and abundant cobbles was present at a depth of 1.8m. A modern drain, **105**, had been cut through the natural geology (**104**) at the southern end of the trench. Above **104** a c 1m thick layer of mixed mid brown clayey-sand (**103**) with abundant cobbles and sandstone rubble was present, suggestive of demolition material. The deposit above this, being a 0.4m thick layer of sandstone rubble and coarse sand and gravel, **102**, was also suggestive of demolition material, but less compacted than **103**. A 0.40m deep layer of asphalt and hardcore bedding, **101**, overlay the demolition material.



Plate 10: Trench 1, facing south

- 4.2.2 **Trench 2:** this east/west aligned trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.6m (Plate 11). The natural geology (**205**), a compact yellow-brown coarse sand and gravel with abundant cobbles was present at a depth of c 1.7m. A modern brick footing, **202**, for the bungalow was observed at the western end of the trench. It measured 0.4m in width by 0.9m in depth and was aligned south-west from the northern end of the trench before turning south-east at the southern end of the trench. A second modern brick structure, **203**, was present in the centre of the trench. This was rectangular in plan, 1.5m in depth and housed services for the bungalow. The area between and around these two

structures (**202** and **203**) had been infilled with clean, coarse sand and gravel, **204**, which resembled a construction fill material.



Plate 11: Trench 2, facing east and showing a modern brick footing

4.2.3 **Trench 3:** this north-east/south-west aligned trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 2.0m (Plate 12). A rough irregular cut was observed halfway along the trench, and was seen to cut into the natural sand (**304**), and was filled by masonry rubble **303**. The cut was more than 2m in depth, and was almost certainly the remains of a cellar relating to the former hall. The sandstone rubble (**303**) was demolition material from the hall, which had been used to infill the cellar. No trace of the cellar walls was observed. The looseness of the fill made the trench edges very unstable and excavation was abandoned at 2m in depth. Sandstone rubble, **303**, extended into the southern end of the trench. At the northern end of the trench was a 0.4m wide modern brick-built gable wall footing (**302**) for the bungalow. Demolition overburden, **301**, was present above both **302** and **303** to a depth of 0.2m.



Plate 12: Trench 3, facing south

- 4.2.4 **Trench 4:** this north-east/south-west aligned trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.35m (Plate 13). It contained two modern services (steel pipe and a plastic gas pipe) in a matrix of mixed sandy-clay **402**. No further excavation was undertaken within this trench due to the unknown condition of the services. Deposit **402** was overlain with a 0.35m thick layer of sandstone setts and bedding (**401**).



Plate 13: Trench 4, facing north-east and showing the modern services

- 4.2.5 **Trench 5:** this east/west aligned trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.6m (Plate 14). The natural geology (**503**) encountered at a depth of 1.6m comprised light grey clayey-sand with abundant sandstone cobbles. It was seen to slope gradually from east to west. Above the natural *c* 1.25m of mixed yellow-brown coarse sand and gravel (**502**) containing abundant sandstone fragments was present. This was overlain by 0.35m in depth of sandstone setts and bedding (**501**).



Plate 14: Trench 5, facing south-east and illustrating the natural slope

- 4.2.6 **Trench 6:** this north-east/south-west aligned trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.7m (Plate 15). The natural geology in this trench was different from that in the other trenches comprising a very compact, clean grey clay (**603**). It is possible that the coarse sand and gravel observed within the other trenches had been removed at this part of the site during construction of the steps and terraced gardens to the east and south. Above the natural was with 1.1m to 1.2m of mixed sandy-clay (**602**) containing abundant sandstone fragments and lenses of reddish brown coarse gravel. This was overlain by 0.35m of sandstone setts and bedding (**601**).



Plate 15: Trench 6, facing north-east

- 4.2.7 Aside from the footings and services relating to the recently demolished bungalow, no significant archaeology was observed during the evaluation trenching other than the cut for a cellar from the former hall seen in Trench 3, and the demolition material generally present across the site.

5. DISCUSSION

5.1 CROMPTON HALL

- 5.1.1 Research has provided evidence to suggest a Crompton Hall was established by at least the mid fifteenth century. Although it is impossible to be certain that this is the same Crompton Hall as known from the late eighteenth century onwards, no evidence was found to suggest otherwise. Therefore, it is considered likely that a hall was on site for a period of three hundred years until its demolition for the new Crompton Hall *c* 1860. This new hall stood for less than a hundred years. However, despite references to the presence of a hall, no detail is provided of its plan or development, at least until the late eighteenth century, and then it is very limited. It is, however, possible to draw outline conclusions for its development from a study of other halls of similar date within the county.
- 5.1.2 Prior to the fifteenth century the most basic form of the hall was the timber cruck-frame open-hall, which housed the owner and his retainers, and having a detached kitchen. Many of these houses were built on naturally defensive sites (GMAU 1985, 18). Although there is no evidence for Crompton Hall at this time, the site of the Hall sits on a natural defensible slope overlooking the valley below.
- 5.1.3 Towards the end of this period, and throughout the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries, a growing desire for family privacy saw the increasing use of a screens passage between the upper and service rooms of the hall (GMAU 1985, 76). Moats are also commonly known from this period, although the sloping site of Crompton Hall precluded any such construction.
- 5.1.4 The most important development of the later medieval period in historic Lancashire was the increased prosperity of the south-east of the county, principally the Salford Hundred, which is the core of the Greater Manchester County. This change was associated with improving economic conditions, with an emphasis on sheep and textiles (GMAU 1985, 21). It was during this period that we have the first reference to Crompton Hall, at a time when projecting wings of two stories were becoming increasingly common.
- 5.1.5 Crompton Hall almost certainly went through several phases of development before it is next referenced in the late eighteenth century. At the very least it would have had an upper floor at one or two ends, chimneystacks rather than an open hearth, porch or projecting wings. It may have been clad in brick or stone in an attempt to reflect status. Interestingly, it was during this period that free-standing chapels appeared to allow a more formal form of worship (*op cit*, 80). In the eighteenth century Aiken (1785) observed a chapel on site.
- 5.1.6 The eighteenth and nineteenth centuries heralded the widespread change in Greater Manchester from an agricultural society to an industrial one. The houses of this period reflect the increase in prosperity. Many were rebuilt in architecturally classic styles, and in several cases owners had new residences

built, whilst older halls were let to multiple tenants (*op cit* 26). Although nothing is known of Crompton Hall in the eighteenth century, other than the plan as shown on the tithe map of 1845 and presence of a chapel, its misaligned walls as depicted on the 1851 OS certainly suggest phases of development prior to the publication of the map. Whellan (1853) records that the Hall had fallen into decay, so it is very likely that the development as shown on the 1851 OS map could date from the eighteenth century. Whilst the Milnes were becoming a prosperous industrial family with investments in coal and textiles, it is possible that the unknown eighteenth and early nineteenth century owners of the Hall became less so, or moved away from their rural property into the expanding urban centres such as Salford itself. Perhaps the hall was subdivided and rented out to tenants, and hence the description as houses on the tithe schedule (1845).

- 5.1.7 From the 1840s many halls appear on the early OS maps which are the result of wealth being generated by industry (GMAU 1985, 26), and although slightly later, in the case of Alice Milne's new Crompton Hall the industry was principally textiles with a lesser link to coal mining. The particular architectural style of the new hall itself is not fully known, other than the 1893 plan and a small amount of detail from Plates 6 and 7. The mid Victorian country house was particularly influenced by the revival of early Tudor, Elizabethan and Jacobean architecture. This 'Old English' style was more popular than any other (Tyack and Brindle 1994, 30). The design of the new hall seems to have been influenced at least in part by the Old English revival, with the tower dominating the local landscape. It certainly would have been visible from the nearby Park Mill. Conversley, the lower section of the hall (Plate 7) appears to be a conservatory, much-loved during the Victorian era. The grounds are naturalistic in style, with some evidence for terracing, rather than the trend for a return to a formal layout, and this is also reflected in the creeper-covered conservatory. The building entirely covered by creepers is probably a service end to the hall. The property is surrounded by a high stone walls, parts of which are still standing.
- 5.1.8 The new Crompton Hall remained in the hands of the Crompton family until at least 1905, following which it fell into a period of decline, as was widespread throughout the county when many country halls were demolished, institutionalised or subdivided for multiple occupation.

5.2 THE EVALUATION TRENCHING

- 5.2.1 The demolition of the Hall for the construction of the bungalow in the 1950s was very thorough. The only remains of the Hall encountered during the programme of evaluation trenching were deposits of demolition rubble – principally sandstone, and the possible remains of a cellar. No datable material was retrieved from the site, which is odd considering the supposed long occupation of the site. However, the area of trenching was relatively restricted to a small area, and the site had been subject to at least two phases of demolition clearance in the mid nineteenth century and the 1950s. Nothing further of archaeological interest was encountered.

- 5.2.2 There are no recommendations for further work within the boundaries of the present development.

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7 ILLUSTRATIONS

7.1 FIGURES

Figure 1: Site location map

Figure 2: Trench location plan

7.2 PLATES

Plate 1: Whetstonehill Farm (reproduced from Shaw 1904)

Plate 2: Chadderton Hall (reproduced from Stockdale 1794)

Plate 3: Royton Hall (reproduced from Stockdale 1794)

Plate 4: An extract from Yates's Map of Lancashire, 1786

Plate 5: Plan of the township of Crompton in the Parish of Prestwich cum Oldham, 1845

Plate 6: First Edition 6 inch to 1 mile Ordnance Survey Map (1853).

Plate 7: First Edition 25 inch to 1 mile Ordnance Survey Map (1891)

Plate 8: Buckstones Road, Shaw showing the new Crompton Hall (reproduced from Shaw 1904)

Plate 9: Crompton Hall (reproduced from Shaw 1904)

Plate 10: Trench 1, facing south

Plate 11: Trench 2, facing east and showing a modern brick footing

Plate 12: Trench 3, facing south

Plate 13: Trench 4, facing north-east and showing the modern services

Plate 14: Trench 5, facing south-east and illustrating natural slope

Plate 15: Trench 6, facing north-east



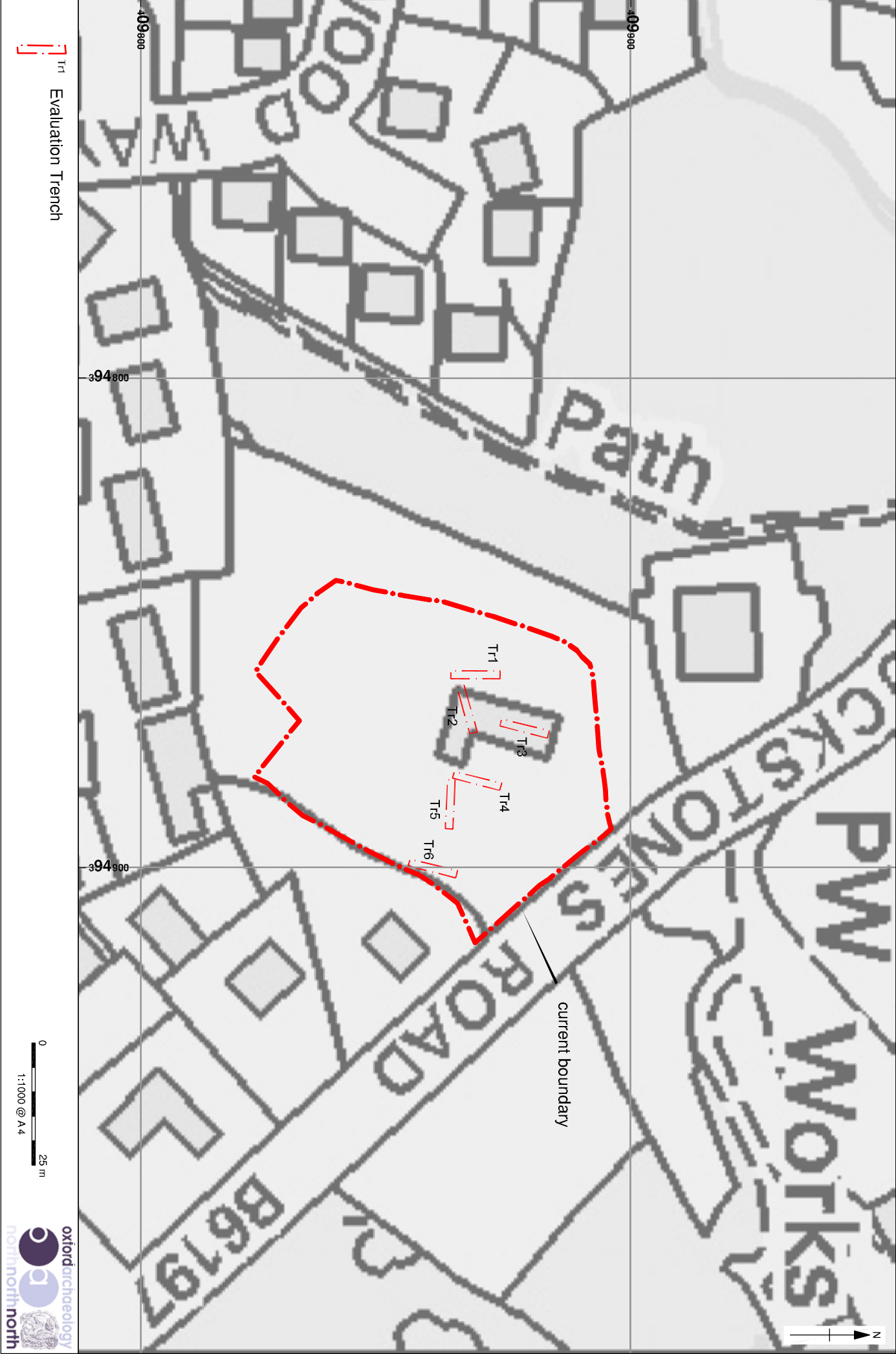


Figure 2: Trench location plan

APPENDIX 1: PROJECT BRIEF

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council has received a planning application for the erection of 8 no. dwellings (fig. 1) at the site of Crompton Hall, Buckstones Road, Shaw, OL2 8LS. Archaeological advice given to Oldham MBC on the 29th October 2009 suggested that the following condition be attached to any planning consent:

“No development shall take place within the proposal area until the applicant has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological works to be undertaken in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved by the Local Planning Authority.”

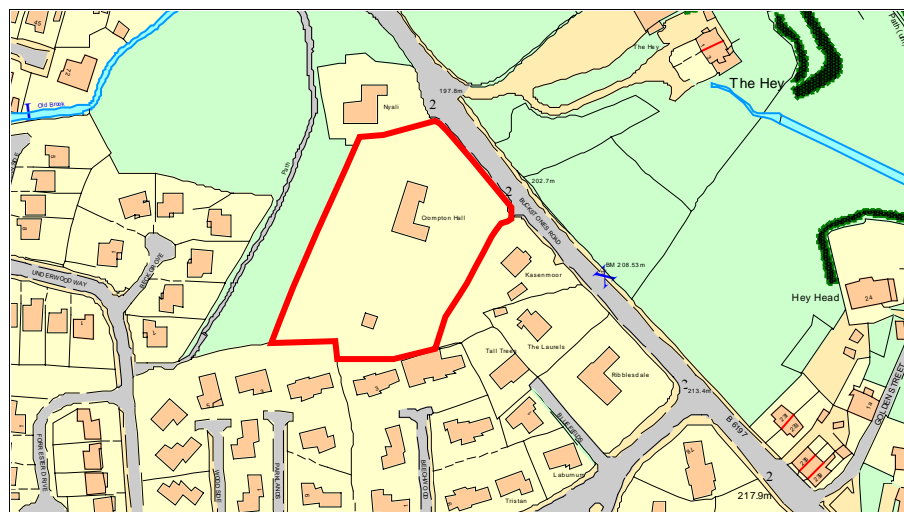


Fig.1: Location of the application site (outlined in red)

1.2 This brief covers the implementation of and reporting upon a programme of archaeological works on the development site associated with planning application PA/056903/09.

1.3 From this brief for a programme of archaeological works a written scheme of investigation (WSI) will be produced by the appointed archaeological contractor. The WSI will be submitted in advance for approval by Oldham MBC.

2.0 Background

2.1 No desk-based archaeological assessment has been produced for this site.

2.2 There is an entry on the Greater Manchester Historic Environment Record that falls within the proposed development site (HER 666.1.0) which refers to Crompton Hall, while a second entry (HER 666.2.0) refers to the settlement of Crompton. The Victoria County History (*'A History of Lancashire'*) vol. 5 p.108 discusses Crompton from its likely origins as a thegnage estate of Kaskenmoor from c.1212 onwards. It identifies several notable families holding, at various times, estates and property in and around the area. The 'Cromptons of Crompton' are noted as being mentioned in the Hyde of

Denton charters. However, the first direct reference to a Crompton Hall appears to date to 1523 in connection with a Robert Crompton. Thereafter, various documents from the mid-seventeenth to mid-eighteenth centuries refer to the Cromptons. We do not know if the Crompton Hall of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries occupied the same site as the very earliest Crompton Hall. The 1523 Crompton Hall may well have been medieval in origin.

2.3 The pre-1848 Crompton Hall was eventually demolished when Alice Milne had a new hall constructed on the site in the mid-nineteenth century. The mid-nineteenth century hall was itself demolished in 1950 and the current house erected.

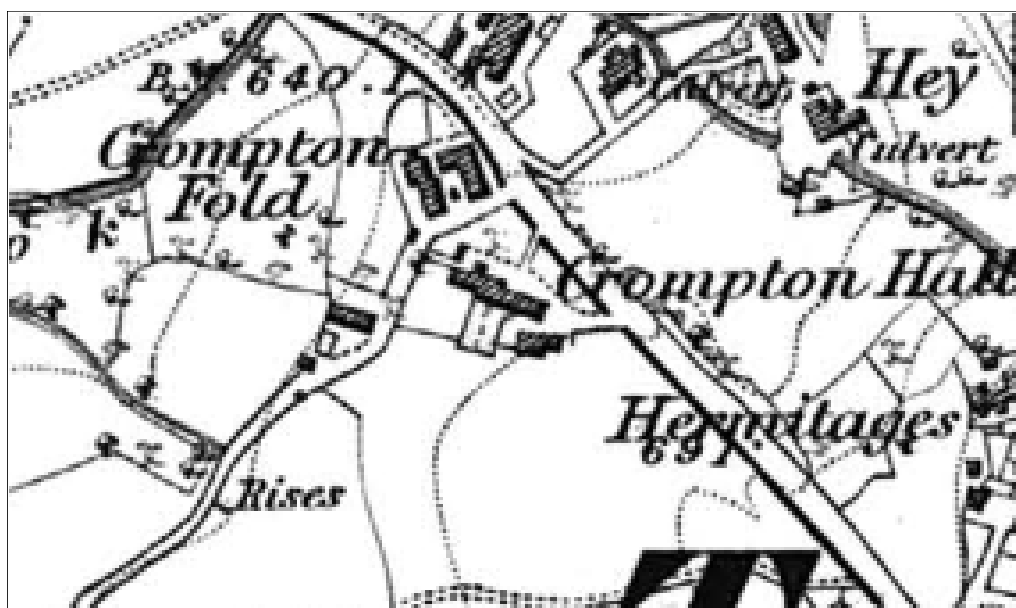


Fig.2: 1848-51 6" mapping

2.4 Historic map evidence for the pre-c.1848 hall is limited. With the eye of faith Yates' map of 1786 appears to show a building in a location that coincides with the application area. Crompton (HER 666.2.0) appears as a broadly linear scatter of buildings running north-west to south-east towards Shore Edge – presumably the alignment of Buckstones Road, although this is not shown. No detail of the building is however discernible.

2.5 The 1848-51 appears to show the earlier hall, with its front and longest elevation facing north. It appears as though the main access was via a drive from Buckstones Road to the east, but there appears to be another access to the west. There are hints there may have been two sub-rectangular ranges, one of 20m and one of 25m length. However, their overlapped arrangement, producing a combined length of c.37m, would be somewhat unusual. A separate substantial building stands to the south of the east end of the hall, probably stables or outbuildings.

2.6 Subsequent OS mapping of 1892-4 shows the hall as rebuilt by Alice Milne. The whole orientation of the building has been altered, with the main range more-or-less arranged north-south with a portico entrance centrally positioned on the east side. To the west lay extensive walks and gardens. There are short northern and southern wings. The latter adjoins a group of two rectangular buildings forming an 'L' shape. The 1892-4 layout persisted virtually unchanged through into the 1950s when the hall was demolished and the existing building erected.

2.7 All of the identified phases of construction have focussed on more-or-less the same area of the site. The present building, for example, stands within the footprints of the main range of the 1848 hall and part of the pre-1848 hall. It must be suspected that there has been successive damage caused to earlier evidence by these repeated phases of development. A detailed map regression analysis might however suggest areas where, for example, the original hall's footprint has never been redeveloped. It is also possible that the construction of the 1848 hall did not entirely destroy all traces of the pre-1848 hall within its footprint.

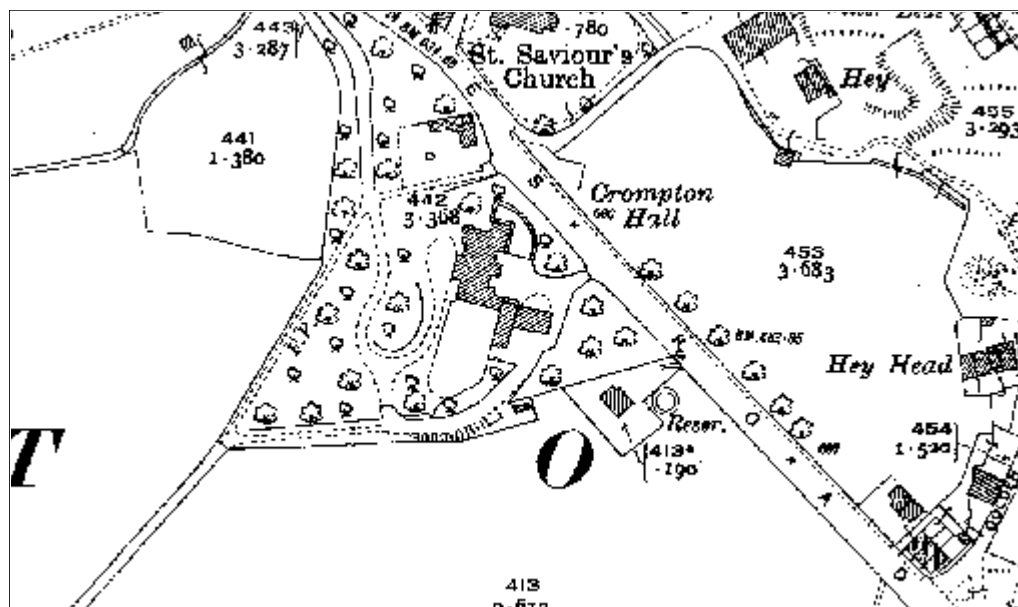


Fig.3: OS 25'' 2nd Revision 1922-29

2.8 The proposals for new build fall in the area of the former halls (fig. 4).



Fig. 4: Sketch overlay of the pre-1848 (red) and 1848 (brown) halls on the present proposals plan.

2.8 There is inherent archaeological, architectural and historic interest in establishing more detail about the construction and character of the 1848-1950s hall. The main research focus of archaeological interest will however concern the pre-1848 hall and outbuildings: their form, construction, materials, age, development and internal layout.

As part of this research focus we should be able to identify any evidence for post-medieval or even medieval activity, either in the construction or generally associated with the hall.

3.0 Programme of Archaeological Works

3.1 It is envisaged that there will be a phase of background documentary research and assessment that would concentrate upon evidence for the development of Crompton and the hall. Any surviving physical evidence for the hall will need to be understood through comparison with other broadly contemporary halls in the area that have been surveyed architecturally or recorded through archaeological investigation. However, this documentary work can be undertaken concurrently with or even following the fieldwork.

3.2 There should be a phase of machine assisted evaluation trenching. This phase should be designed to identify and characterise surviving below ground remains for the sequence of buildings and associated activity on this site. Particular emphasis should be given to evaluating for the pre-1848 hall and any associated activity. The objective should be to provide sufficient evidence to allow an informed decision to be made on the need or otherwise for a phase of open area excavation and to allow for the targeting of any such excavation.

3.3 For the purposes of costing for the evaluation phase reckon upon a total of 6 x 10m machine assisted (back actor using a toothless ditching bucket) trenches. The final locations and targets for trenching should be discussed with the Assistant County Archaeologist before the WSI is produced.

4.0 Post-Evaluation Mitigation

4.1 Informed by the results of the evaluation trenching a decision will then be taken regarding the appropriate level of mitigation. Where evidence is not forthcoming or where surviving remains are highly fragmentary, it may be more appropriate to record them as part of a targeted watching brief during the development.

4.2 Should significant remains of the 1848 hall, the pre-1848 hall and outbuildings or for post-medieval/ medieval activity be identified then a strategy for targeted open area excavation will be developed.

4.3 Outside of the areas subject to evaluation, targeted watching brief or open-area excavation a general archaeological watching brief should be maintained during development groundworks. Where significant remains are exposed the archaeologist should be afforded time to clean, investigate and record the evidence before development continues.

4.4 The appointed archaeologist should inform the client as soon as is possible of any significant post-excavation costs likely to arise, and ensure that the necessary funding for such work has been secured.

5.0 Health and Safety

5.1 Those visiting and working on the site will naturally operate with due regard to health and safety regulations.

5.2 The appointed archaeologists/ historic buildings architect should undertake a site risk assessment.

6.0 Monitoring

6.1 The work should be undertaken by suitably qualified and experienced staff. Details of staff and their relevant experience should be supplied in the WSI to the Assistant County Archaeologist and agreed prior to the commencement of the project.

6.2 The Assistant County Archaeologist will require at least one week's advanced notice of the commencement of field recording, and may wish to visit the site and monitor the work.

7.0 Output

7.1 The preparation of the report should follow the guidelines published by the Institute of Field Archaeology.

7.2 Upon completion of the programme of fieldwork a full report will be produced and printed copies submitted to the Local Planning Authority, the Assistant County Archaeologist and the HER.

7.3 The report should include as a minimum,

Non-technical summary

Introductory statement

Aims and purpose of the project

Methodology (evaluation, area excavation, watching brief phases)

An objective summary statement of results

Conclusion, including a confidence statement

Supporting drawn site illustrations at appropriate scales (site plan, evaluation trench locations, area excavation extent, plans of deposits and features, site sections [to include deposit relationships to ground surface], feature plans and sections)

Selected site photographs (laser printer quality)

Drawn finds illustrations – of representative and/ or key finds to support the interpretation of date/ site function – at appropriate scales

Supporting data – including a basic quantification of artefacts, ecofacts and structural data tabulated and full specialist reports in appendices.

Index to archive and details of archive location

References

Copy of this brief

An electronic copy of the report (PDF) should be submitted to the HER in addition to the printed text.

7.4 Where the work is undertaken in fulfilment of a condition of planning consent, *discharge of the relevant condition will only be recommended by the ACA once the final report has been submitted and accepted.* Should a variation of this requirement be desired by the developer a written agreement to this effect should be sought from the ACA.

8.0 Submission and Deposition of Project Archive

8.1 From the outset of the project arrangements should be made for the archive, consisting of record sheets, original drawings, drawn plans, photographs, notes, copies of the all reports along with an index to the archive to be deposited with the appropriate archive repository.

9.0 Publicity

9.1 The results of the work should be made public. This may, dependant upon the results of the project, take the form of a full definitive report or a short summary published in an appropriate archaeological journal.

9.2 **Greater Manchester Archaeological Unit (GMAU)** supports the Online Access to Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) project. The overall aim of the OASIS project is to provide an online index to the mass of archaeological grey literature that has been produced as a result of the advent of large-scale developer funded fieldwork. The archaeological contractor must therefore complete the online OASIS form at <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/>. Once a report has become a public document by submission to or incorporation into the SMR, **GMAU** may place the information on a web-site. Please ensure that you and your client agree to this procedure in writing as part of the process of submitting the report to the case officer at **GMAU**.

APPENDIX 2: WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 PLANNING BACKGROUND

- 1.1.1 Vian Homes Ltd has obtained planning permission (PA/056903/09) to develop a site off Buckstones Road in Shaw, Oldham (centred on NGR SD 9486 0986). The development proposals allow for the erection of seven new dwellings, the construction of which will necessitate some earth-moving works and, potentially, may have an impact on buried archaeological remains. The sub-surface archaeological resource of the development area is essentially unknown, although cartographic evidence indicates that the site was occupied in the mid-nineteenth century by Crompton Hall, which is depicted on Ordnance Survey mapping published in 1851. Whilst this building was largely rebuilt in the later nineteenth-century, there is some potential for the foundations of the earlier structure to survive as buried remains.
- 1.1.2 In order to secure archaeological interests, Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council (OMBC) placed a condition on the planning permission, which requires an appropriate programme of archaeological investigation to be carried out in advance of development. Following consultation with the Assistant County Archaeologist for Greater Manchester, who provides archaeological planning advice to OMBC, it was recommended that an appropriate programme of investigation would in the first instance comprise background documentary research and assessment coupled with targeted evaluation trenching. The scope of the required archaeological works is outlined in a Project Brief, devised by the Assistant County Archaeologist.
- 1.1.3 This document provides a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for the required archaeological works, and has been formulated to meet the requirements of the Project Brief. This allows for an initial investigation of the site, the results of which are intended to inform the requirement for any further work to mitigate the impact of development, and enable an appropriate strategy to be devised. The production of the WSI has been commissioned by Warrington Martin, acting on behalf of Vian Homes Ltd.

1.2 OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGY NORTH

- 1.2.1 OA North has considerable experience of the assessment, survey and excavation of sites and monuments of all periods, having undertaken a great number of small and large projects during the past 20 years. Projects have been undertaken to fulfil the different requirements of various clients and planning authorities, and to very rigorous timetables. OA North has particular palaeoenvironmental experience, and is widely recognised as one of the foremost specialists in this field. OA North and all its members of staff operate subject to the Institute for Archaeologists' (IfA) Code of Conduct. OA North is a registered organisation of the IfA (No 17).

2. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 2.1 The main aim of the investigation, given the commercial nature of the development, will be to establish the presence or absence of buried archaeological remains on the site and, if present, characterise the level of preservation and significance, and provide a good understanding of their potential.
- 2.2 The objectives of the initial element of the archaeological investigation will be to:
- to carry out a sufficient level of background documentary research and assessment to allow a broad understanding of the development of Crompton and the hall;
 - to undertake a comparison of Crompton Hall with other broadly contemporary halls in the area;
 - to undertake an initial programme of archaeological intrusive investigations to determine the presence, character, date, and extent of any buried archaeological remains in the development site;
 - to inform an archaeological mitigation strategy for the development of the site.
- 2.3 The results obtained from this initial programme of archaeological investigation will form the basis for a mitigation strategy for the development of the site.

3 METHODOLOGY

3.1 RESEARCH

- 3.1.1 The desk-based research will examine all relevant and accessible archival and historic sources, and produce baseline data that will serve as a guide to the archaeological potential of the study area. It will include an appraisal of the records held by the Greater Manchester and Lancashire County Record Offices in Manchester and Preston respectively, the National Monuments Record (NMR), Oldham Local Studies Library, Saddleworth Museum Archives, and OA North's own extensive archive and library. The appropriate sections of county histories, early maps, and such primary documentation (tithe, enclosure plans, estate plans, etc) as may be available will also be consulted. Particular emphasis will be upon any evidence for the development of Crompton and the hall. A comparison with other broadly contemporary halls in the area that have been surveyed architecturally or recorded through archaeological investigation will also be carried out via consultation with the Greater Manchester Historic Environment Record.

3.2 EVALUATION

- 3.2.1 The initial investigation of the development site will comprise the excavation of a series of short trenches. The precise number and location of these trenches

will need to be agreed with the Assistant County Archaeologist, although it may be anticipated that these will be targeted upon the footprint of the hall depicted on the Ordnance Survey map of 1851. The trenches will be intended to identify and characterise surviving below-ground remains for the sequence of buildings, and any associated activity on the site.

- 3.2.2 Excavation of the modern ground surface will be undertaken by using a toothless bucket. The uppermost levels of overburden/demolition material will be removed using a machine of appropriate power, fitted with a toothless ditching bucket, to the top of the first significant archaeological level. The work will be supervised closely by a suitably experienced archaeologist. Spoil from the excavation will be stored adjacent to the trench, and will be backfilled upon completion of the archaeological works.
- 3.2.3 Machine excavation will then be used to define carefully the extent of any surviving foundations, floors, and other remains. Thereafter, archaeological remains will be cleaned manually to define their extent, nature, form and, where possible, date. It should be noted that no archaeological deposits will be entirely removed from the site. If the excavation is to proceed below a depth of 1.2m, then the trenches will be widened sufficiently to allow the sides to be stepped in.
- 3.2.4 All information identified in the course of the site works will be recorded stratigraphically, using a system adapted from that used by the Centre for Archaeology Service of English Heritage. Results of the evaluation will be recorded on *pro-forma* context sheets, and will be accompanied with sufficient pictorial record (plans, sections and both black and white and colour photographs) to identify and illustrate individual features. Primary records will be available for inspection at all times.
- 3.2.5 **Context Recording:** all contexts will be recorded using *pro-forma* sheets, and details will be incorporated into a Harris matrix. Similar object record and photographic record *pro-formas* will be used. All written recording of survey data, contexts, photographs, artefacts and ecofacts will be cross-referenced from *pro-forma* record sheets using sequential numbering.
- 3.2.6 **Photography:** a full and detailed photographic record of individual contexts will be maintained and similarly general views from standard view points of the overall site at all stages of the evaluation will be generated. Photography will be undertaken using 35mm cameras on archivable black and white print film, and all frames will include a visible, graduated metric scale. Extensive use of digital photography will also be undertaken throughout the course of the fieldwork for presentation purposes. Photographs records will be maintained on special photographic *pro-forma* sheets.
- 3.2.7 **Planning:** the precise location of the evaluation trench, and the position of all archaeological structures encountered, will be surveyed by EDM tacheometry using a total station linked to a pen computer data logger. This process will generate scaled plans within AutoCAD, which will then be subject to manual survey enhancement. The drawings will be generated at an accuracy appropriate for 1:20 scale, but can be output at any scale required. Sections will

be manually drafted as appropriate at a scale of 1:10. All information will be tied in to Ordnance Datum.

- 3.2.8 Human remains are not expected to be present, but if they are found they will, if possible, be left *in-situ* covered and protected. If removal is necessary, then the relevant Home Office permission will be sought, and the removal of such remains will be carried out with due care and sensitivity as required by the *Burials Act 1857*.
- 3.2.9 Any gold and silver artefacts recovered during the course of the excavation will be removed to a safe place and reported to the local Coroner according to the procedures relating to the Treasure Act, 1996.
- 3.2.10 ***Finds policy:*** finds recovery and sampling programmes will be in accordance with best practice (following current Institute for Archaeologists guidelines) and subject to expert advice in order to minimise deterioration. OA North employs in-house artefact and palaeoecology specialists, with considerable expertise in the investigation, excavation, and finds management of sites of all periods and types, who are readily available for consultation. Finds storage during fieldwork and any site archive preparation will follow professional guidelines (UKIC). Emergency access to conservation facilities is maintained by OA North with the Department of Archaeology, the University of Durham. Samples will also be collected for technological, pedological and chronological analysis as appropriate.

3.3 HEALTH AND SAFETY

- 3.3.1 Full regard will be given to all constraints during the course of the project. OA North provides a Health and Safety Statement for all projects and maintains a Safety Policy. All site procedures are in accordance with the guidance set out in the Health and Safety Manual compiled by the Standing Conference of Archaeological Unit Managers.
- 3.3.2 OA North undertakes to safeguard, so far as is reasonably practicable, the health, safety and welfare of its staff and of others who may be affected by our work. This applies in particular to providing and maintaining suitable premises, ensuring the safety of all equipment supplied by the Company, and providing all reasonable safeguards and precautions against accidents. OA North will also take all reasonable steps to ensure the health and safety of all persons not in their employment, such as volunteers, students, visitors, and members of the public (this includes trespassers). OA North will ensure that no one suffers injury because of dangers arising from the state of the premises, or things done, or omitted to be done, on the premises.
- 3.3.3 OA North is fully familiar with and will comply with all current and relevant legislation, including, but not limited to:
- The Health and Safety at Work Act (1974);
 - Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations (1999);
 - Manual Handling Operations Regulations 1992 (as amended in 2002);
 - The Construction (Design and Management) Regulations (2007);

- The Control of Asbestos Regulations (2006);
- The Workplace (Health, Safety and Welfare) Regulations (1992);
- Construction (Health, Safety and Welfare) Regulations (1996);
- The Health and Safety (Miscellaneous Amendments) Regulations (2002);
- The Work at Height Regulations (2005);
- The Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations (2002);
- The Health and Safety (First-Aid) Regulations (1981);
- The Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order (2005);
- The Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations (1995),
- The Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations (1998);
- Lifting Operations and Lifting Equipment Regulations (1998).

3.3.4 OA North has professional indemnity to a value of £2,000,000, employer's liability cover to a value of £10,000,000 and public liability to a value of £15,000,000. Written details of insurance cover can be provided if required.

3.3.5 Normal OA North working hours are between 9.00 am and 5.00 pm, Monday to Friday, though adjustments to hours may be made to maximise daylight working time in winter and to meet travel requirements. It is not normal practice for OA North staff to be asked to work weekends or bank holidays and should the Client require such time to be worked during the course of a project a contract variation to cover additional costs will be necessary.

3.4 OTHER MATTERS

3.4.1 Access to the site will be arranged via the Client/main contractor.

3.4.2 It is assumed that the Client/main contractor will provide the necessary plant, welfare facilities and fencing to carry out the archaeological fieldwork.

3.5 POST-EXCAVATION AND REPORT PRODUCTION

3.5.1 **Archive:** the results of the archaeological investigation will form the basis of a full archive to professional standards, in accordance with current English Heritage guidelines (*The Management of Archaeological Projects*, 2nd edition, 1991) and the *Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for Long Term Storage* (UKIC 1990). The project archive represents the collation and indexing of all the data and material gathered during the course of the project. The deposition of a properly ordered and indexed project archive in an appropriate repository is considered an essential and integral element of all archaeological projects by the IfA in that organisation's code of conduct. As part of the archiving process, the on-line OASIS (On-line Access to Index of Archaeological Investigations) form will be completed.

3.5.2 The paper and finds archive for the archaeological work undertaken at the site will be deposited with Oldham Museum, which is the nearest museum which meets Museums' and Galleries' Commission criteria for the long-term storage of archaeological material (MGC 1992). This archive can be provided in the English Heritage Centre for Archaeology format, both as a printed document

and on CD (as appropriate). The archive will be deposited with the museum within six months of the completion of the fieldwork. Except for items subject to the Treasure Act, all artefacts found during the course of the project will be donated to the receiving museum.

3.5.3 **Report:** the results obtained from the research and evaluation trenching will be presented in a fully illustrated report, which will be submitted to the Client within six weeks of the completion of the fieldwork. The report will include a copy of this Written Scheme of Investigation, and indications of any agreed departure from that design. It will include an historical and archaeological background to the study area, an outline methodology of the investigation, and present, summarise, assess, and interpret the results of the programme of archaeological works detailed above.

3.5.4 **Confidentiality:** the final report is designed as a document for the specific use of the Client, and should be treated as such; it is not suitable for publication as an academic report, or otherwise, without amendment or revision. Any requirement to revise or reorder the material for submission or presentation to third parties beyond the Written Scheme of Investigation, or for any other explicit purpose, can be fulfilled, but will require separate discussion and funding.

3.6 MONITORING

3.6.1 Monitoring of the project will be undertaken by the Greater Manchester Assistant County Archaeologist, or his representative, who will be afforded access to the site at all times.

4. RESOURCES

4.1 RESOURCES

4.1.1 The project will be under the overall charge of **Alison Plummer** (OA North Senior Project Manager) to whom all correspondence should be addressed.

4.1.2 The desk-based research and map regression analysis will be carried out by **Kathryn Blythe** (Project Officer, Heritage Management Services).

4.1.3 The evaluation is likely to be undertaken by **Graham Mottershead** (OA North Project Supervisor). Graham is an highly experienced field archaeologist.

4.1.4 It is not possible to provide details of specific technicians that will be involved with the fieldwork at this stage, but all shall be suitably qualified archaeologists with proven relevant experience. It is anticipated that up to two technicians will be required during the course of the fieldwork.

4.1.5 Assessment of any finds from the archaeological work will be undertaken by OA North's in-house finds specialist **Christine Howard-Davis BA** (OA

North Finds Manager). Christine has extensive knowledge of all finds of all periods from archaeological sites in northern England.